

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

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March 11, 2005

**Mr. James Ho
Chief Counsel
Subcommittee on Border Security,
Immigration and Citizenship
139 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510**

**Mr. Derek Lindblom
Counsel
Office of Senator Chuck Schumer
313 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510**

**Ms. Shiloh Roehl
Legislative Director
Office of Congresswoman Deborah Pryce
221 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515**

**Mr. Bobby Vassar
Minority Counsel
House Committee on the Judiciary
B-336 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515**

Dear Jim, Derek, Shiloh, and Bobby:

I am pleased to notify you that the following members and organizations of the National Coalition for Religious Freedom and Human Rights fully support the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005, including myself. Others have already notified you of their support through personal letters. I am also confident that additional organizations from our Coalition, and groups closely aligned with us, will join in supporting this historic legislation.

Best regards,

**Barrett Duke
Chairman, National Coalition for Religious Freedom and Human Rights
Vice President for Public Policy and Research,
Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission**

**Richard Cizik
Vice President for Governmental Affairs
National Association of Evangelicals**

**Lisa Thompson
Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking
Salvation Army**

**Janice Shaw Crouse
Senior Fellow, The Beverly LaHaye Institute
Concerned Women for America**

**Nathan J. Diament
Director of Public Policy
Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America**

Faith McDonnell
Director, Religious Liberty Programs
Institute on Religion and Democracy

Donna M. Hughes
Professor & Carlson Endowed Chair
Women's Studies Program
University of Rhode Island

Kathryn Porter
President
Leadership Council for Human Rights

Peggy Birchfield
Executive Director
Religious Freedom Coalition

Michael Horowitz
Senior Fellow
Hudson Institute

Debbie Fikes
Director
Basic Ministries, International
Midland, TX

Margaret Purvis
Chairwoman
Faces of Children, Midland, Texas

Dr. Jae Joong Nam
President
AEGIS Foundation

March 15, 2005

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Deborah Pryce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Cornyn and Representative Pryce:

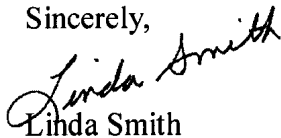
I am writing to express my support for the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005.

Though I and several of my colleagues had some serious concerns about earlier versions of the legislation, I appreciate your willingness to address our proposed changes. I believe the bill introduced is greatly improved and will have a positive effect on reducing demand for commercial sex practices in the United States. Reducing demand for commercial sex will help reduce the number of trafficking victims and help prevent the sexual exploitation of women and children.

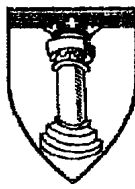
I commend you for commitment to helping end sex trafficking and your commitment to human rights.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Smith".

Linda Smith
Founder and Executive Director
Shared Hope International



INSTITUTE ON RELIGION AND PUBLIC POLICY

March 15, 2005

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn,

I am writing in support of the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005. This historic legislation would bring significant attention to the true roots of sexual trafficking: the demand for illegal sexual activity. It would also combat the commercial sexual trade by focusing law enforcement effort on consumers, traffickers, and exploiters, ending the current isolation of the individuals exploited in the illegal activity.

The End Demand for Sexual Trafficking Act of 2005 is the result of many hours of work by lawmakers, religious leaders, and NGOs under your leadership and is a much-needed addition to the United States' sexual trafficking laws. This bill will hopefully focus the attention of sexual trafficking prosecution on the traffickers and the "johns" who pay for the illegal activities, thereby solidifying America's position as the world leader in working to end sexual trafficking and prostitution.

With warm personal regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely Yours,

Joseph K. Grieboski
President



March 11, 2005

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senator
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005

Dear Senator Cornyn,

On behalf of Faces of Children, an ecumenical prayer ministry under the auspices of First Presbyterian Church, Midland, Texas, we endorse the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005.

Faces of Children is a prayer ministry that focuses on and provides prayer support to children in crisis and in distress. We care deeply about providing assistance to victims, especially the youngest and most vulnerable ones, of sex trafficking and about prosecuting those who take advantage of them in the sex trade.

We are most grateful to you for sponsoring this important bill!

Blessings,

Margaret Purvis

Margaret Purvis, Chair
Faces of Children, Midland, TX

Chris Laufer

Chris Laufer, Coordinator
Faces of Children, Midland, TX

800 West Texas Avenue - Midland, Texas 79701 Phone: 432-684-7821 Fax: 432-684-8424
A Christian Ministry - Educating, Praying, and Networking for Children



***Against Trafficking
in Women***

March 9, 2005

Dear Senator Cormyn,

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, an international organization working against sex trafficking and prostitution in many parts of the world, would like to express its support for the proposed "End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005."

We are confident that this bill, when passed and implemented, will go a long way in deterring purchasers of commercial sex acts, help protect children from being exploited, prohibit the operation of sex tours, and assist States and local governments in their efforts to reduce trafficking and commercial sexual activities.

We hope that this bill will soon be passed by the United States Congress and appreciate your sponsorship of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Janice G. Raymond
Co-Executive Director

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World Vision Endorses Legislation to Combat Sex Trafficking and Increase Assistance to Victims

March 10, 2005

WASHINGTON – World Vision applauds Senator John Cornyn and Representatives Chris Smith and Deborah Pryce for their steadfast work to protect children from exploitation. We support H.R. 972, the *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005* and the introduction of the *End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005*. The combined strengths of these two bills provide for effective measures to help combat sex trafficking by increasing law enforcement efforts, reducing demand and increasing services available to victims.

An estimated two million children currently are enslaved in the global commercial sex trade, which has destroyed the lives of countless women and children throughout history. For children, the most vulnerable victims, the impact is catastrophic, including: long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease (including HIV/AIDS), violence/abuse, drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism, a life of poverty and, in the worst cases, death. Notably, this abhorrent abuse is found in nearly every country, including the United States.

The provisions included in the *End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005* will help remedy this problem by increasing U.S. law enforcement action against the abusers, including traffickers, pimps, brothel owners and “customers” (a.k.a., “Johns”), thereby curtailing demand. In addition, the *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005* reauthorizes much-needed program funds, provides for increased law enforcement programs and tools and bolsters the TIP office at the Department of State. Both bills measurably increase services available to victims.

World Vision is delighted to support both of these bills and we have full confidence in the U.S. Congress to resolve any differences between the two bills in order to arrive at the most effective legislation possible. We thank Senator Cornyn and Representatives Smith and Pryce for their leadership in addressing this global problem. We stand ready to work with Congress on this important issue.

World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. World Vision serves the world’s poor – regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. In 2004, World Vision operated in nearly 100 countries around the world.

- END -

Contact: Joseph Mettimano
Senior Policy Advisor and Director, Child Sex Tourism Prevention Project
(202) 572-6339



Standing Against Global Exploitation
1385 Mission Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94103

March 8, 2005

Senator John Cornyn

517 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator John Cornyn,

I am writing on behalf of SAGE Project, Inc to strongly and enthusiastically endorse the **End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005**, a bill designed to combat commercial activities by targeting demand, to protect children from being exploited by such activities, to prohibit the operation of sex tours, to assist State and local governments to enforce laws dealing with commercial sexual activities, to reduce trafficking in persons and for other purposes.

SAGE has designed and implemented cutting-edge, model restorative justice programs for customers of prostitutes (the demand), trauma and drug recovery, and job training programs for women, young men, and girls who are victims of trafficking, prostitution, sexual exploitation and violence. The personal knowledge and experience possessed by many of the survivor, peer staff enables SAGE to effectively provide support and engender trust without re-traumatizing even the most fragile of clients. Through advocacy, educational programs, and as a direct service provider for over 14 years, SAGE has assisted in raising public awareness concerning the sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and girls. As a result of our interventions, SAGE has assisted over 1500 individuals to exit the criminal justice system, escape traffickers and actively engage in prosecutions, receive emergency housing and victim services, recover from abuse and acquire appropriate services such as medical and mental health care, substance abuse treatment, legal, immigration, case management, educational and vocational training. Because of SAGE's commitment to victims of exploitation and trafficking, a web of prevention education, early intervention and treatment services and a network of survivor, peer led programs throughout the United States has been created. SAGE is the co-founder of the first and largest program for customers of prostitutes in the world. This restorative justice program has been replicated in dozens of other cities and funds a wide range of services for women and girls.

Studies show that most commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) are integrated into the mainstream sex industry and tend to be concentrated in the cheaper end of the prostitution market where conditions are the worse and the concentration of customers/abusers the highest. Although some children are prostituted by and/or specifically for pedophiles and preferential abusers, the majority of the several million men who annually exploit children are first and foremost prostitute users of adult women who become child sexual abusers through their prostitute use, rather than the other way around. The world of prostitution whether legal or illegal provides an arena where laws and rules which constrain sex with minors can be evaded. Laws and social conventions make it difficult and dangerous for individuals to buy children for sexual purposes in non-commercial contexts, but prostitution potentially provides instant access, often to a selection of children. Men surveyed in San Francisco through SAGE and the First Offenders Prostitution Program respond when asked how a person justifies having sex with an underage prostituted child, "they don't even think." They know that law enforcement efforts are focused on the youth/child as the perpetrator and not on them. The **End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005** is the most historically significant step toward ending the rape and sexual abuse of children through prostitution and holding the true perpetrators accountable.

The **End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005** clearly, strongly, and unambiguously redefines “child prostitution” as sexual abuse on young human beings. This sexual abuse of children through prostitution is made possible by a society that has sanctioned and institutionalized numbers of children for whom routine abuse, torture, rape, trafficking and kidnapping is considered acceptable. In essence, what society is saying and enforcing through laws and inappropriate interventions is that children and youth are consenting to their own sexual abuse and that by consenting to this abuse they are a danger to society. They are subject to arrest, they are viewed as perpetrators, not victims, and they are denied any services for their victimization. Many of these girls have been exploited for pornography or have suffered or witnessed physical and sexual violence. For these girls, the average of entry into prostitution is 13-14, an age at which these girls are entering an endless cycle of arrest, drug addiction, and violence. The result is traumatic and profound lack of self-esteem causing disempowered behaviors: dropping out of school, prostitution, addiction, selling of drugs, and violence. Their exploitation is perpetuated by continued reliance on the very people who have physically, emotionally, and sexually assaulted them. As these children age into adults they remain trapped in a system of abuse and exploitation and could not escape even if they wanted to. The legal, mental and medical health, human rights consequences of this abuse remains with the child or woman as she is arrested, prosecuted, jailed, placed on probation and forced into treatment. The **End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005** will send the message that now these severely victimized and neglected children and women can depend on us for protection and care.

SAGE is committed to working with you and your office in passing this historic legislation. Just ask.

Truly,

Norma Hotaling

Founder and Director

SAGE

**The Paul H. Nitze School
of Advanced International Studies**

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**The Protection Project of
The Foreign Policy Institute**

March 18, 2005,

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Deborah Pryce (OH-15)
204 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Cornyn and Representative Pryce,

I am writing on behalf of The Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), to express my full support for the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005.

The Protection Project is a legal human rights research institute committed to the eradication of trafficking in persons. The Protection Project strongly believes that reducing demand is the most effective way to successfully combat sex trafficking.

The End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005 is a significant step forward in the fight against sex trafficking, since it introduces appropriate measures to promote the prosecution of purchasers of commercial sex acts, exploiters of sexual activities and traffickers. In particular, in regard to the prosecution of purchasers, I strongly endorse Section 4(b)(1), which proposes measures such as educational programs for first time purchasers of "unlawful commercial sex," publication of names and addresses, the use of female decoys, statutory rape and felony assaults prosecutions, and other programs enhancing prosecution and reducing demand. I firmly believe that these measures would significantly contribute to discouraging demand.

The Protection Project is committed to working with you and supports the passage of this important legislation.

Best Regards,

Mohamed Y. Mattar, S.J.D.

Adjunct Professor of Law and
Executive Director



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March 10, 2005

Mr. James Ho
Chief Counsel
Subcommittee on Border Security, Immigration and Citizenship
139 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Mr. Derek Lindblom
Counsel
Office of Senator Chuck Schumer
313 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ms. Shiloh Roehl
Legislative Director
Office of Congresswoman Deborah Pryce
221 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Ho, Mr. Lindblom, and Ms. Roehl,

On behalf of Polaris Project, we write in support of the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005.

We work everyday with women and children in the sex industry who have been beaten, raped, and controlled through threats of death and extreme violence, many of them U.S. nationals who just a few years ago would be viewed as nothing more than criminals. This historic legislation will help change that injustice forever in the United States. The End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005 generates renewed hope for our clients, for the survivors on our staff, and for the rest of us who work everyday protecting some of the most vulnerable women and children in our country.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Katherine Chon
Co-Executive Director

Derek Ellerman
Co-Executive Director

Religious Freedom Coalition

717 Second Street NE ☙ Washington, DC 20002
(202) 543-0300 Fax (202) 543-8447

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

Statement by Religious Freedom Coalition chairman, William J. Murray, in support of the proposed End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005:

Although progress has been made in many areas since the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was passed in 2000, the tragic human degradation of sexual trafficking continues to increase in magnitude. The number of those adversely affected continues to grow, especially among children, the most pathetic victims.

By focusing more on the male customers and on traffickers, this proposed legislation can reduce prostitution by redirecting law enforcement efforts which now disproportionately lead to the arrest of the women involved in prostitution, some of whom are trafficking victims.

The legislators who have wisely recognized that prostitution is not a "victimless crime" and who have taken steps to reduce its prevalence are to be applauded. It has long been realized that prostitution brutalizes and desensitizes men, who come to view women as objects and not as human beings. A new study has shown that prostitution also leads to more criminal behavior in women, and not just in drug related offenses. It was found that 7 out of 10 women who were convicted of felonies of all kinds, first entered the legal system because of an arrest for prostitution.

Sex tourism is a growing industry that targets children in third world countries, and the United States is the home of probably more "sex tourists" than any other single nation. The victims are not American children in this case, but are poor and often abandoned children in foreign countries where there is lax law enforcement. This new effort to stop the victimization of these children should be supported in all possible ways. The men who travel abroad to exploit children and the tour operators who are well aware of the nature of the trips they are providing, should be prosecuted.

This bipartisan effort by members of the Senate and the House to address this serious humanitarian issue is to be highly commended, and I hope it will gain many more supporters and cosponsors in Congress.

Media Contact:
Peggy Birchfield, Executive Director
Phone: (202) 543-0300

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